

Message Text

PAGE 01 RANGOO 03289 281133Z

13
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 028393

R 281030Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2349

S E C R E T RANGOON 3289

EXDIS

FOR EA - MR HUMMEL ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, BM, TW
SUBJ: KMT IRREGULARS AGAIN?

1. I KNOW YOU WILL BE AS DISTURBED AS I AM BY RECENT INFORMATION SUGGESTING A RENEWAL OF ROC INVOLVEMENT WITH INSURGENTS IN BURMA. IF THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT RENEWAL OF THE INVOLVEMENT, IT WILL SERIOUSLY STRAIN OUR RELATIONS JUST IN THE AREA WHERE THE MAINTENANCE OF A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GUB IS MOST IMPORTANT TO US (IN NARCOTICS CONTROL), AN JUST AT A TIME WHEN THE RELATIONSHIP SEEM TO HAVE ESCAPED DAMAGE FROM THE GUB'S, OVERRACTION TO THE RECENT

COUP PLOT. REGNOIZES OF OUR COMPLETE INNOCENCE OF ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUP PLOT, IF THE GUB LOST CONFIDENCE IN OUR INTEGRITY AND GOODWILL, IF IT SUSPECTED US OF PLAYING A DOUBLE GAME REGARDING THE KMT, OUR RELATIONSHIP WOULD SOUR VERY QUICKLY. WE MIGHT EVEN BY MADE THE TARGET OF THE KIND OF TRUMPED-UP CHARGES WE HAVE HAD TO FACE IN COUP SITUATIONS ELSEWHERE.

2. IF THE ROC IS INDEED CONTEMPLATING ANY KIND OF RE-NEWED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE INSURGENTS, IT ALSO SEEMS EXTRAORDINARILY SHORT-SIGHTED IN TERMS OF THE GRC"U OWN NARROW INTERESTS. ANY INSURGENT GROUP WITH WHICH THE
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ROC MIGHT BECOME INVOLVED IS ALMOST BOUND TO BE ENGAGED IN THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC, AND IF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BECAME AWARE OF SUCH GRC INVOLVEMENT, IT COULD WELL TIP THE BALANCE AGAINST CONTINUED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH TAIWAN. SOME YEARS BACK, THE WORLD HAD VERY LITTLE ATTENTION TO SPARE FOR NARCOTICS TRAFFIC IN BURMA, AND BURMA ITSELF MAINTAINED A STOICAL SILENCE ON THE SUBJECT. TIMES HAVE CHANGED; THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE IS A HOUSEHOLD WORD, AND THE GUB ITSELF IS NO LONGER ENTIRELY MUTE.

3. UNFORTUNATELY, I DO NOT HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE POSSIBLE ROC REINVOLVEMENT IN ANY FORM THAT MIGHT SERVE AS A PEG FOR A DEMARCHE IN TAIPEI. THE KMT PROBLEM IS MENTIONED OFTEN ENOUGH BY THE BURMESE TO SHOW THAT IT STILL RANKLES, AND THAT THEIR SUSPICIONS ARE NOT COMPLETELY DEAD, BUT THE GUB HAS NOT RAISED THE PROBLEM WITH US AS A CURRENT MATTER. WE WILL BE ON THE ALERT FOR ANY INFORMATION THAT COULD BE USED IN TAIPEI. IN THE MEANTIME, I WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAD A CHANCE TO FOCUS ON THE PROBLEM BEFORE IT HEATS UP.

OSBORN

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CU-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AGR-05 AGRE-00 EB-07 COME-00

/119 W

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R 280714Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2347

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL MANDALAY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
USINT BAGHDAD

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6. RICE SALE TO INDONESIA (LOU)
AN INDONESIAN EMBASSY SOURCE SAID INDONEASIA HAS ORDERED
70,000 TONS OF RICE FROM BURMA. SHIPMENTS ARE TO BEGIN IN
NOVEMBER AND BE COMPLETED BY JANUARY. INDONESIA WILL PAY
CASH FOR THE RICE.

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7. TRAINEES TO AUSTRIALIA (UNCL)
THE BURMA BROADCASTING SERVICE'S OFFICER IN CHARGE OF
FARM BROADCASTING IS TAKING PART IN A THREE-MONTH COURSE
IN RURAL BROADCASTING AT SYDNEY SPONSORED BY THE AUSTRALIAN
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AGENCY; AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR IS ATTENDING A THREE-MONTH INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS OFFICERS' COURSE AT SYDNEY UNDER COLOMBO PLAN
AUSPICES.

8. NEW AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ (UNCL)
THE GUB AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT, U THA TUN, HAS BEEN APOINTED
CONCURRENTLY AS AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ.

9. BURMESE JOURNALIST APPOINTED COLOMBO PLAN INFORMATION OFFICER
(UNCL)
U TIN MYA, A RECENT IV GRANTEE, HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS THE
NEW INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE COLOMBO PLAN BUREAU. HE IS
THE FIRST BURMESE EVER TO HOLD A COLOMBO PLAN INTERNATIONAL
STAFF POSITION. U TIN MYA, 43, IS AT PRESENT FEATURES EDITOR
OF THE (ENGLISH) WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY.

10. SOVIET PARTY JOURNALISTS END VISIT (UNCL)
A THREE-MAN CPSU JOURNALIST DELEGATION, HEADED BY THE CHIEF
EDITOR OF THE SOVIET PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S "AGITATOR,"
ENDED A TEN-DAY VISIT HOSTED BY THE BSPP. THE DELEGATION
MET WITH BSPP EDITORS AND VISITED SEVERAL INDUSTRIAL SITES
AROUND BURMA.
OSBORN

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